THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER
PART 2 OF 4
ISSUE 64
SEGA
Archie COMICS
SONIC UNIVERSE™
Tracy Yardley!
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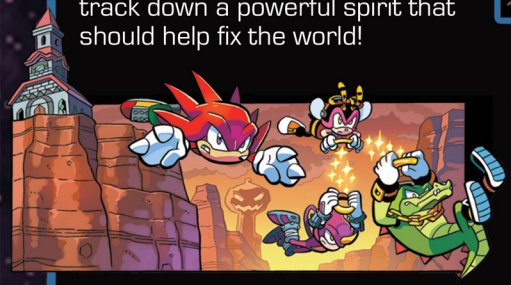
Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Knuckles and the Chaotix join the efforts to save the shattered world!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

THE SHATTERED WORLD CRISIS IS UPON US!

The continents have been ripped up and now fly around as floating islands. Knuckles has been enlisted by a mysterious force to track down a powerful spirit that should help fix the world!



Along the way he met the Chaotix, who had been hired to find the Chaos Emeralds. These gems are the key to restoring the world. Could they hold a connection to the spirit Knuckles was tasked to find? Knuckles joined the Chaotix to find out.

Together they faced strange and terrifying monsters as they searched the spooky Pumpkin Hills. While they haven't found the Emerald, they have found trouble in the form of the Chaotix's greatest rivals...

WHO'S WHO

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA
THE LAST GUARDIAN

TEAM CHAOTIX
(VECTOR, ESPIO & CHARMY)
FREELANCE DETECTIVES

TEAM HOOLIGAN
(BARK, NACK & BEAN)
MERCENARY CROOKS

???

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THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER PART TWO: THE USUAL SUSPECTS

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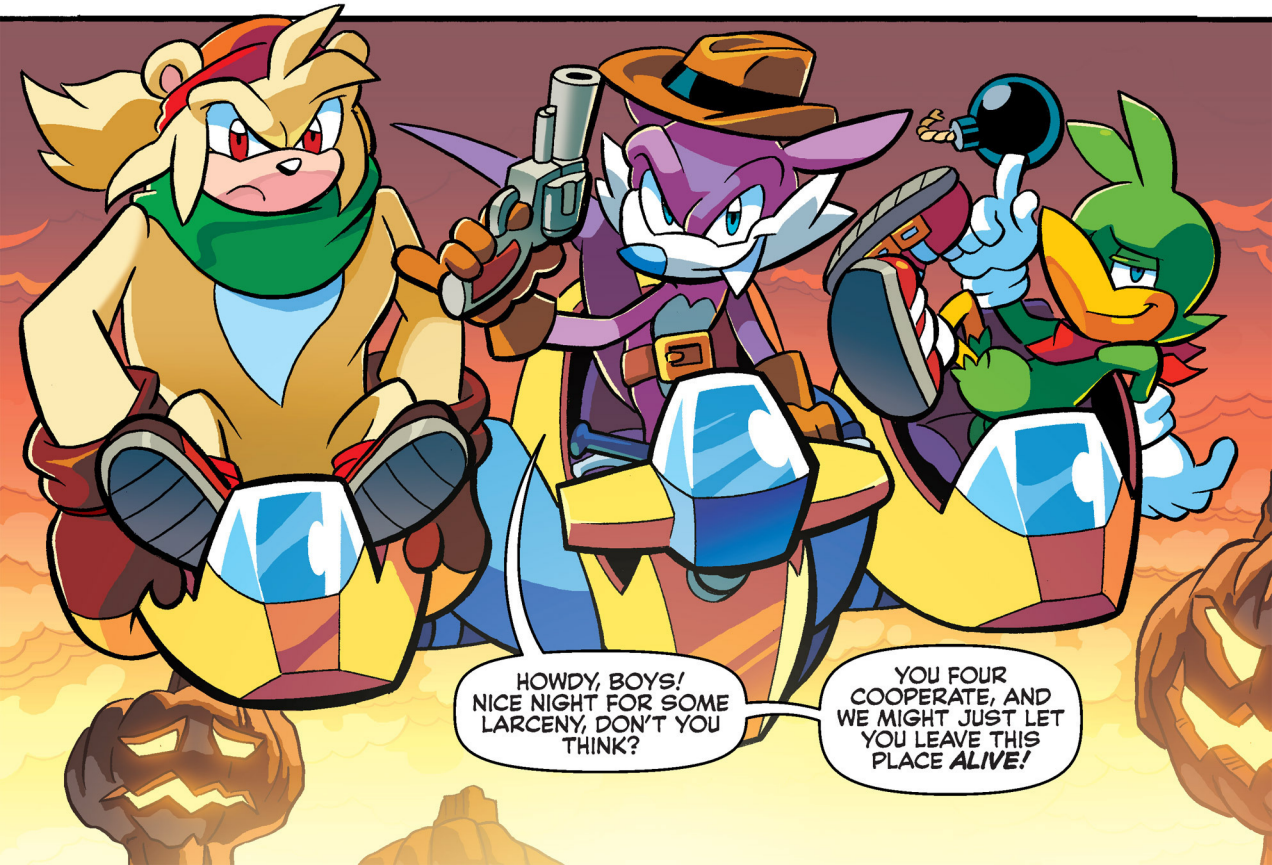
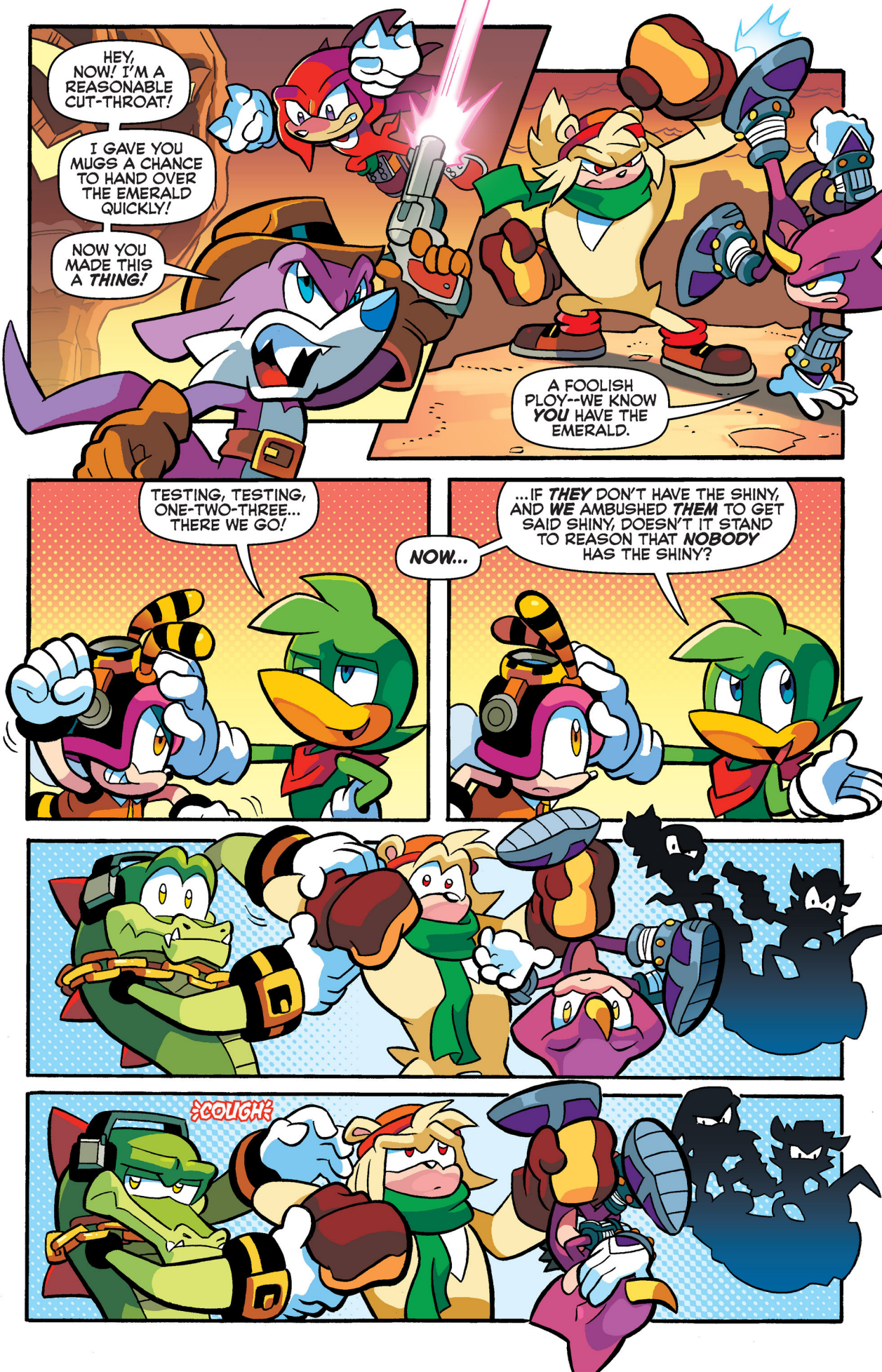
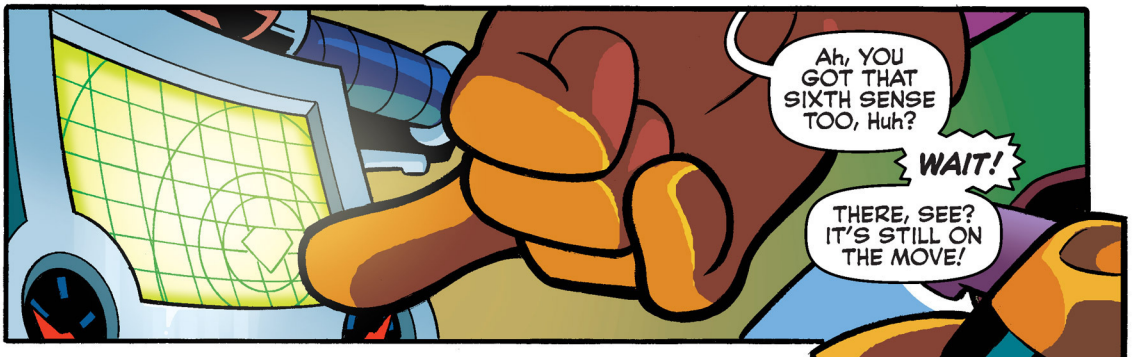


NACK the WEASEL FANGED SNIPER
BARK the POLAR BEAR SILENT BRAWLER
GYEEP!
The MARVELOUS QUEEN NACK'S BIKE--DON'T TOUCH!
Oh, YEAH? CHAOTIX-- LET'S GET 'EM!
VECTOR the CROCODILE CHAOTIX LEADER
KNUCKLES the ECHIDNA LAST OF HIS KIND
GOOD EVENING!
ESPIO the CHAMELEON CHAOTIX NINJA
CHARMY the BEE JUNIOR CHAOTIX
BEAN the DYNAMITE DUCK HAS ISSUES

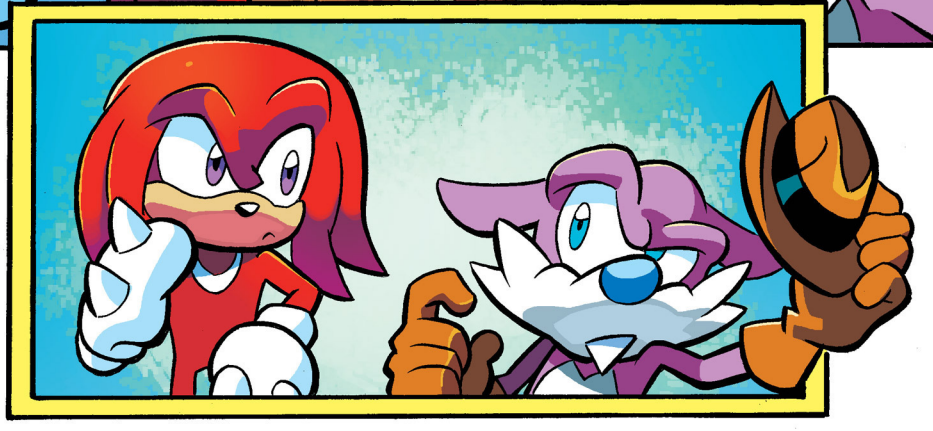
NOBODY MESSES WITH MY RIDE!
YOU'D PREFER A PUNCH TO THE FACE?
YE--NO-- HOLD STILL!
GRRR! SHOULD'VE KNOWN YOU NO-GOOD MERCS WERE BEHIND THIS! HAND OVER THE EMERALD BEFORE I--!
?
WHAM
HOLD ON! HOLD ON! MY WORD BALLOONS ARE STILL MESSED UP!


HEY, NOW! I'M A REASONABLE CUT-THROAT!
I GAVE YOU MUGS A CHANCE TO HAND OVER THE EMERALD QUICKLY!
NOW YOU MADE THIS A THING!
A FOOLISH PLOY--WE KNOW YOU HAVE THE EMERALD.
TESTING, TESTING, ONE-TWO-THREE... THERE WE GO!
NOW...
...IF THEY DON'T HAVE THE SHINY, AND WE AMBUSHED THEM TO GET SAID SHINY, DOESN'T IT STAND TO REASON THAT NOBODY HAS THE SHINY?
:COUGH:

Oh, FOR THE LOVE OF--TRUCE! TRUCE!
THIS MAKES NO SENSE! MY EMERALD TRACKER CLEARLY SHOWS IT'S IN THE AREA!
I SENSED IT WAS OUT THIS WAY, TOO.


Ah, YOU GOT THAT SIXTH SENSE TOO, Huh?
WAIT!
THERE, SEE? IT'S STILL ON THE MOVE!

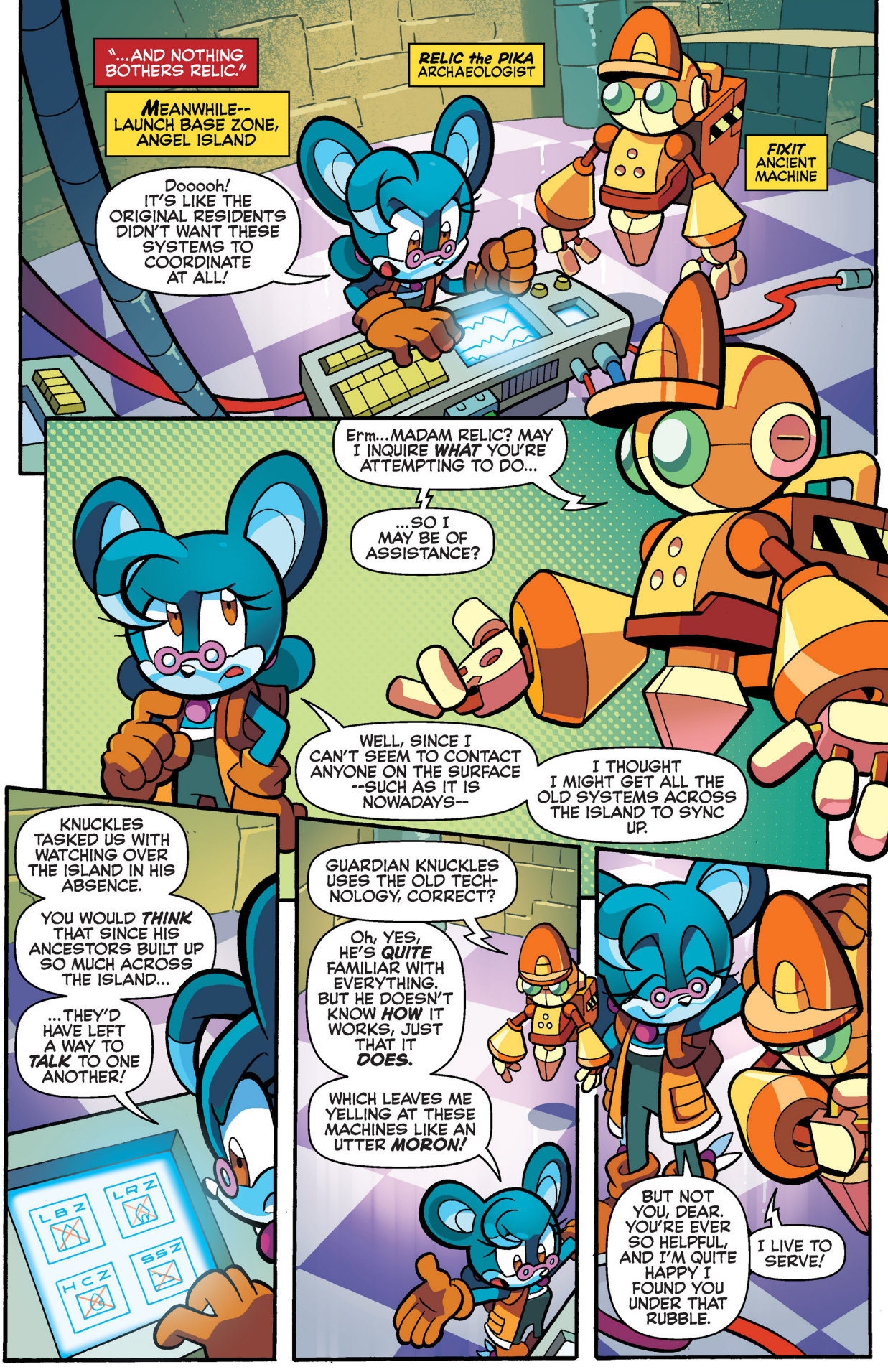
Huh. LAST TIME I WAS OUT HERE, I FOUND AN ABANDONED MINING NETWORK BELOW THE HILLS.*
I GUESS THE ALTIMETER ON THIS THING IS WONKY. BUT AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW WHERE TO--
*SONIC ADVENTURE 2--THE GAME

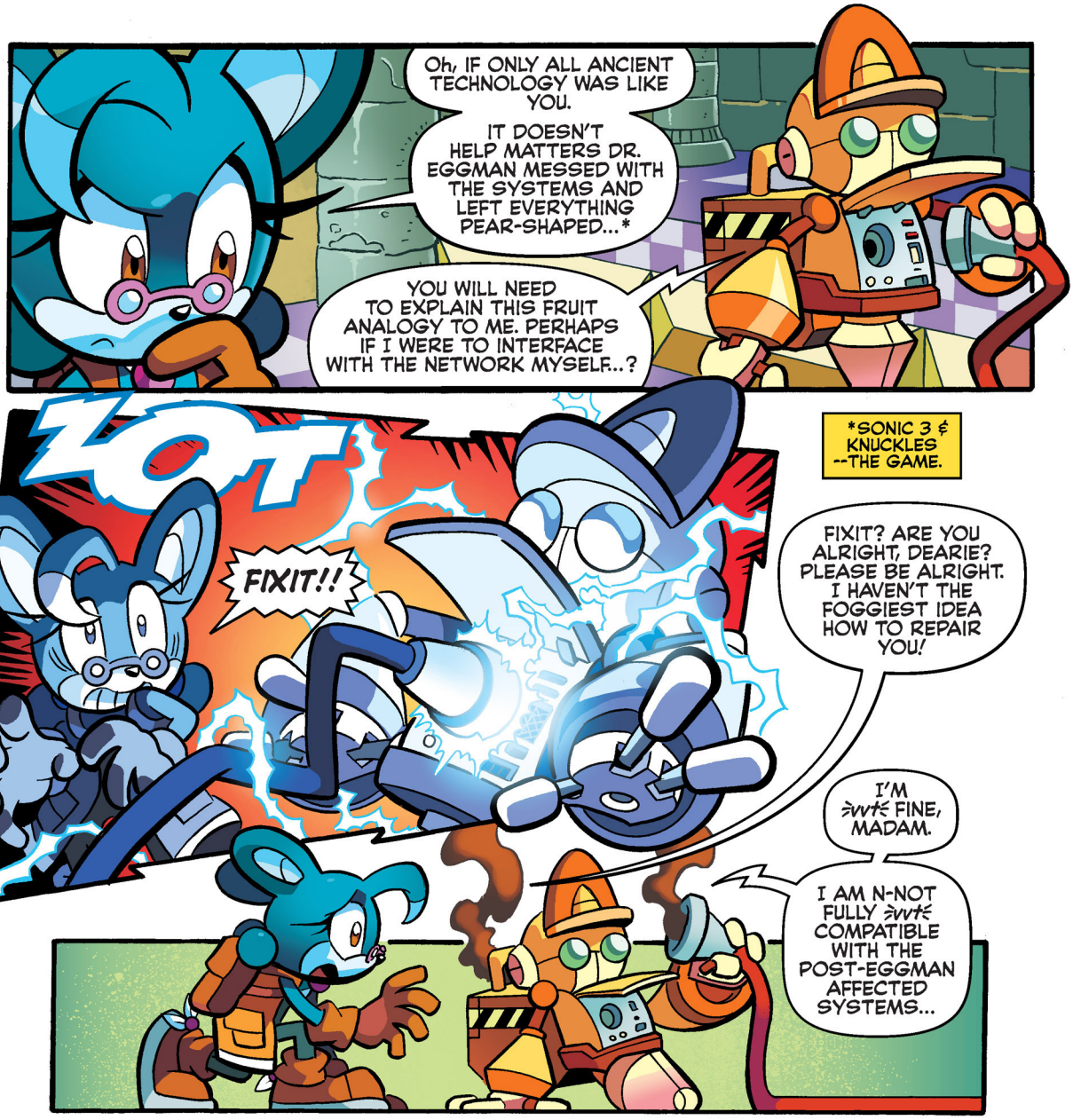


OOF!
BEAN! GIVE US SOME COVER!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS! NINJA-- VANISH!
BRAKKA-RAKKA-BLAM
LATER, SUCKERS!
THAT IS NOT HOW NINJA VANISH!

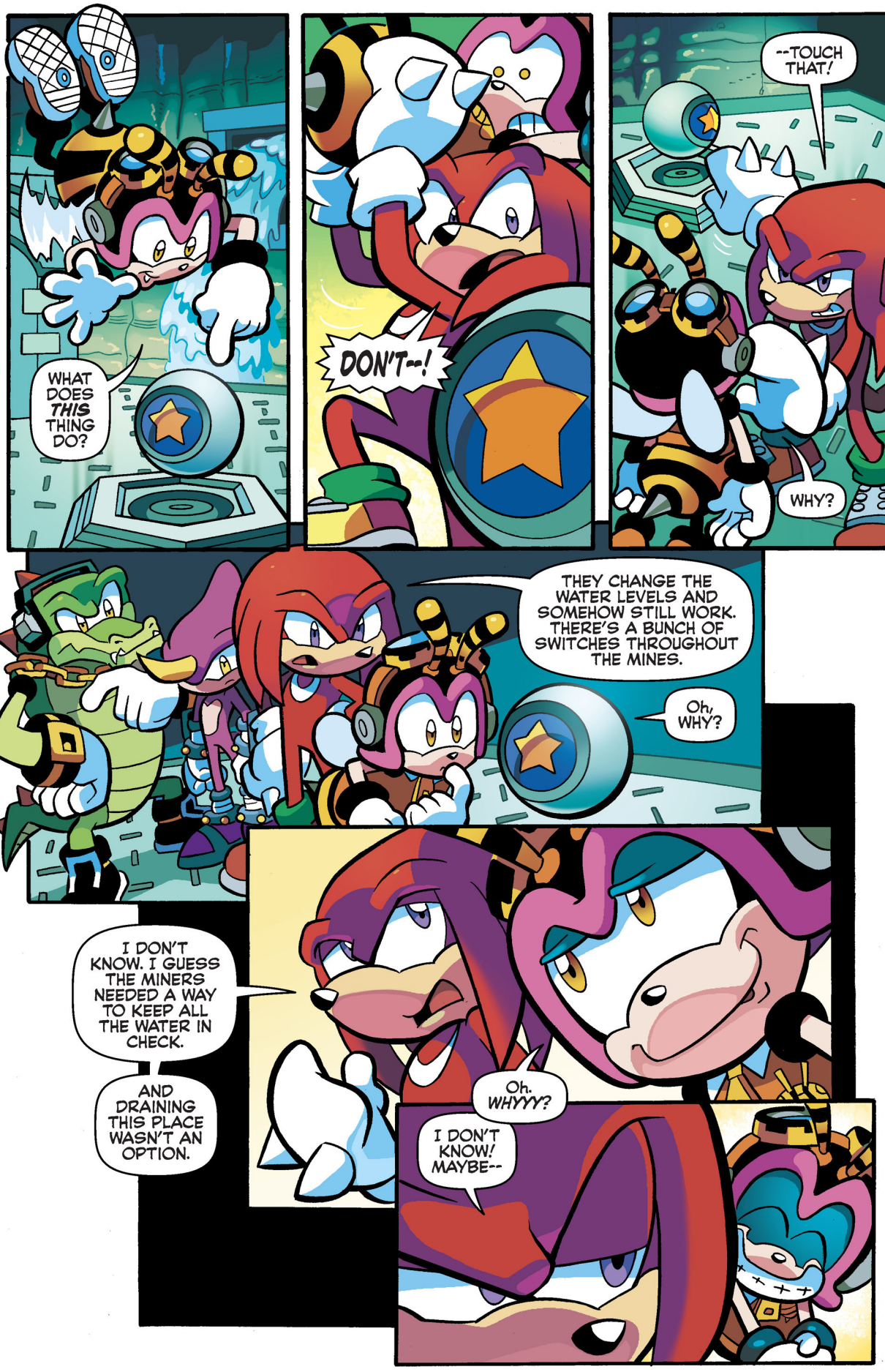
THAT'S JUST GREAT!
THE HOOLIGANS GOT THE DROP ON US, AND NOW THEY'VE GOT A HEAD START!
YEAH-- BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ME.
LIKE I SAID--I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS AREA BEFORE, WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR THE SHARDS OF THE MASTER EMERALD.
IT'S LIKE A MAZE. SO WHILE THOSE THREE ARE FLYING AROUND WITHOUT A CLUE, I CAN SHOW YOU THE BEST WAY IN.
AND YOU CAN SENSE THE EMERALD... WE'RE NOT SUNK! WE'VE STILL GOT THE ADVANTAGE!
WOO! WE CAN STILL PRETEND TO BE NUMBER ONE!
THEN LET'S HURRY! THEY STILL HAVE THE SPEED ADVANTAGE.
THEN WE'LL CHANNEL OUR INNER-SONIC! VROOM! WHOOSH!
PSSHT! NEVER.

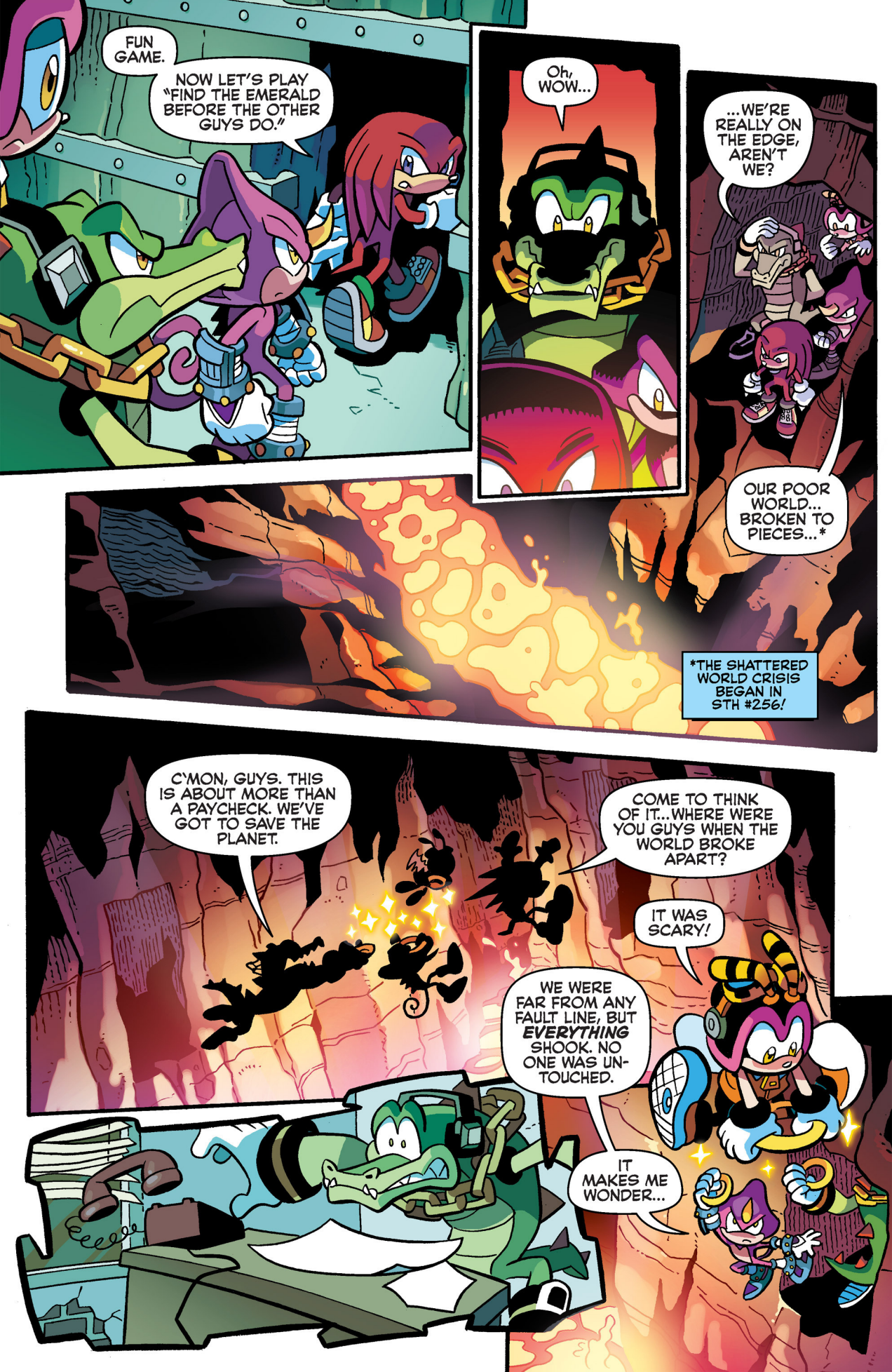
FOLLOW ME! WE'RE GOING TOWARDS CHURCH MOUNTAIN, AND THEN IT'S STRAIGHT DOWN.
AND HE MEANS *CONTROLLED* DESCENT! DON'T GO DROPPING US AGAIN!
WELL DON'T FREAK ME OUT BY TALKING ABOUT SPOOKY STUFF!
WHILE I DON'T MIND HELPING THE CHAOTIX, AND FINDING THE CHAOS EMERALD *IS* IMPORTANT, IT'S STILL DISTRACTING ME FROM MY MISSION.
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A POWERFUL SPIRIT OUT HERE THAT CAN FIX THE WORLD. EVERY SECOND I SPEND CONCENTRATING ON THE EMERALD IS ONE LESS SPENT FINDING THE SPIRIT...
...AND ONE LESS SPENT PROTECTING THE MASTER EMERALD AND ANGEL ISLAND. I JUST HOPE EVERYTHING IS FINE BACK THERE...

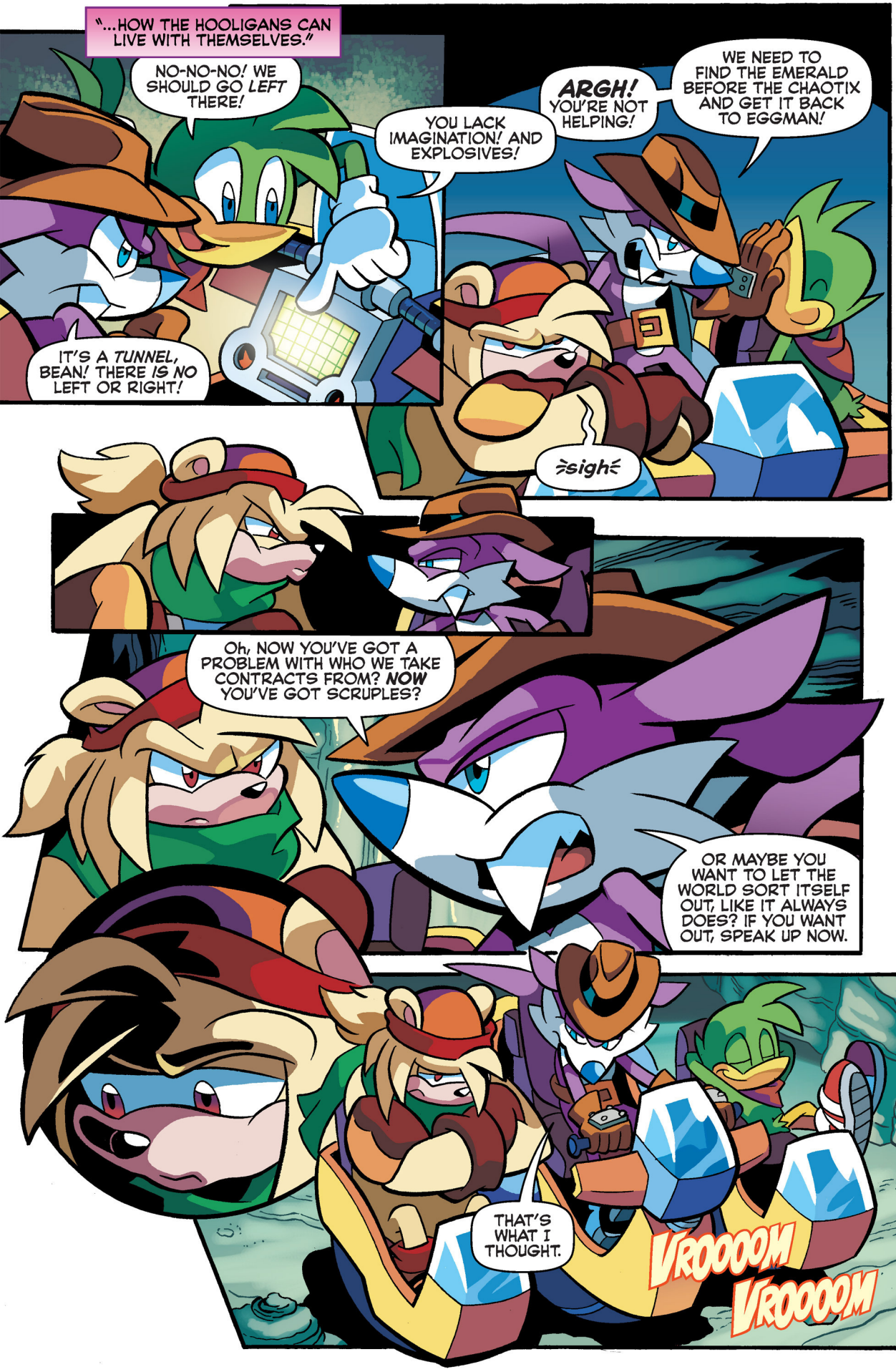

"...AND NOTHING BOTHERS RELIC."
MEANWHILE-- LAUNCH BASE ZONE, ANGEL ISLAND
RELIC the PIKA ARCHAEOLOGIST
FIXIT ANCIENT MACHINE
Dooooh! IT'S LIKE THE ORIGINAL RESIDENTS DIDN'T WANT THESE SYSTEMS TO COORDINATE AT ALL!
Erm...MADAM RELIC? MAY I INQUIRE WHAT YOU'RE ATTEMPTING TO DO...
...SO I MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE?
WELL, SINCE I CAN'T SEEM TO CONTACT ANYONE ON THE SURFACE --SUCH AS IT IS NOWADAYS--
I THOUGHT I MIGHT GET ALL THE OLD SYSTEMS ACROSS THE ISLAND TO SYNC UP.
KNUCKLES TASKED US WITH WATCHING OVER THE ISLAND IN HIS ABSENCE.
YOU WOULD THINK THAT SINCE HIS ANCESTORS BUILT UP SO MUCH ACROSS THE ISLAND...
...THEY'D HAVE LEFT A WAY TO TALK TO ONE ANOTHER!
LBZ
LRZ
HCZ
SSZ
GUARDIAN KNUCKLES USES THE OLD TECHNOLOGY, CORRECT?
Oh, YES, HE'S QUITE FAMILIAR WITH EVERYTHING. BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW IT WORKS, JUST THAT IT DOES.
WHICH LEAVES ME YELLING AT THESE MACHINES LIKE AN UTTER MORON!
BUT NOT YOU, DEAR. YOU'RE EVER SO HELPFUL, AND I'M QUITE HAPPY I FOUND YOU UNDER THAT RUBBLE.
I LIVE TO SERVE!

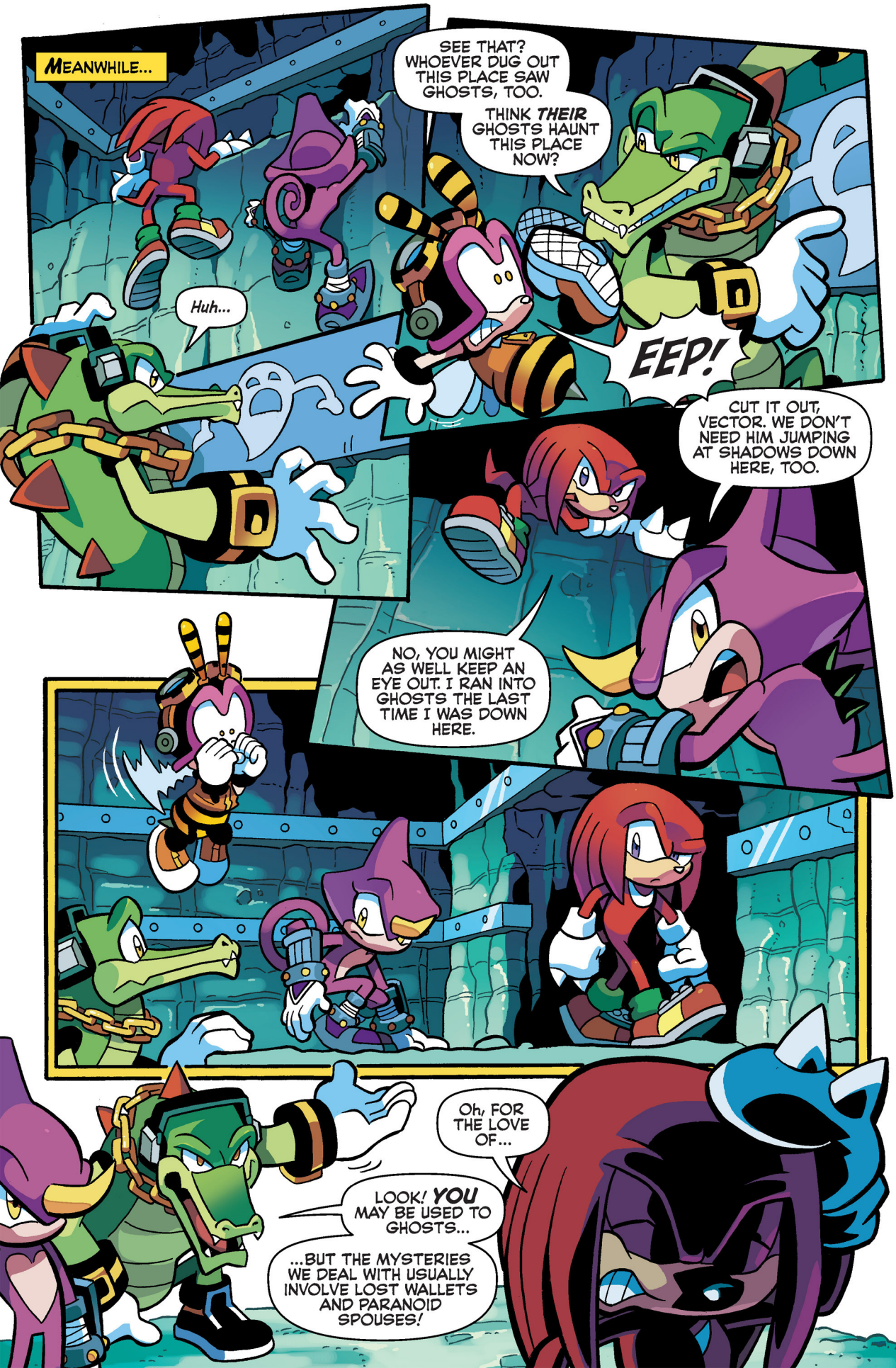

Oh, IF ONLY ALL ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY WAS LIKE YOU.
IT DOESN'T HELP MATTERS DR. EGGMAN MESSED WITH THE SYSTEMS AND LEFT EVERYTHING PEAR-SHAPED...*
YOU WILL NEED TO EXPLAIN THIS FRUIT ANALOGY TO ME. PERHAPS IF I WERE TO INTERFACE WITH THE NETWORK MYSELF...?
*SONIC 3 & KNUCKLES --THE GAME.
KOT
FIXIT!!
FIXIT? ARE YOU ALRIGHT, DEARIE? PLEASE BE ALRIGHT. I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST IDEA HOW TO REPAIR YOU!
I'M ≥vvt≤ FINE, MADAM.
I AM N-NOT FULLY ≥vvt≤ COMPATIBLE WITH THE POST-EGGMAN AFFECTED SYSTEMS...
I D-DID, HOWEVER, NOTE A STRANGE ENERGY READING IN M-MUSHROOM HILL ZONE.
STRANGE? "STRANGE" HOW?
IT IS HARD TO DEFINE...IT SEEMS ALIEN TO THE ISLAND...
WELL...KNUCKLES ASKED US TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE ISLAND, SO WE'D BEST INVESTIGATE.
BUT WHAT IF IT'S DANGEROUS?
THEN...WE MUST BE VERY QUIET WHEN WE INVESTIGATE. AND IF SOME TERRIBLE BEASTIE ASSAULTS US...

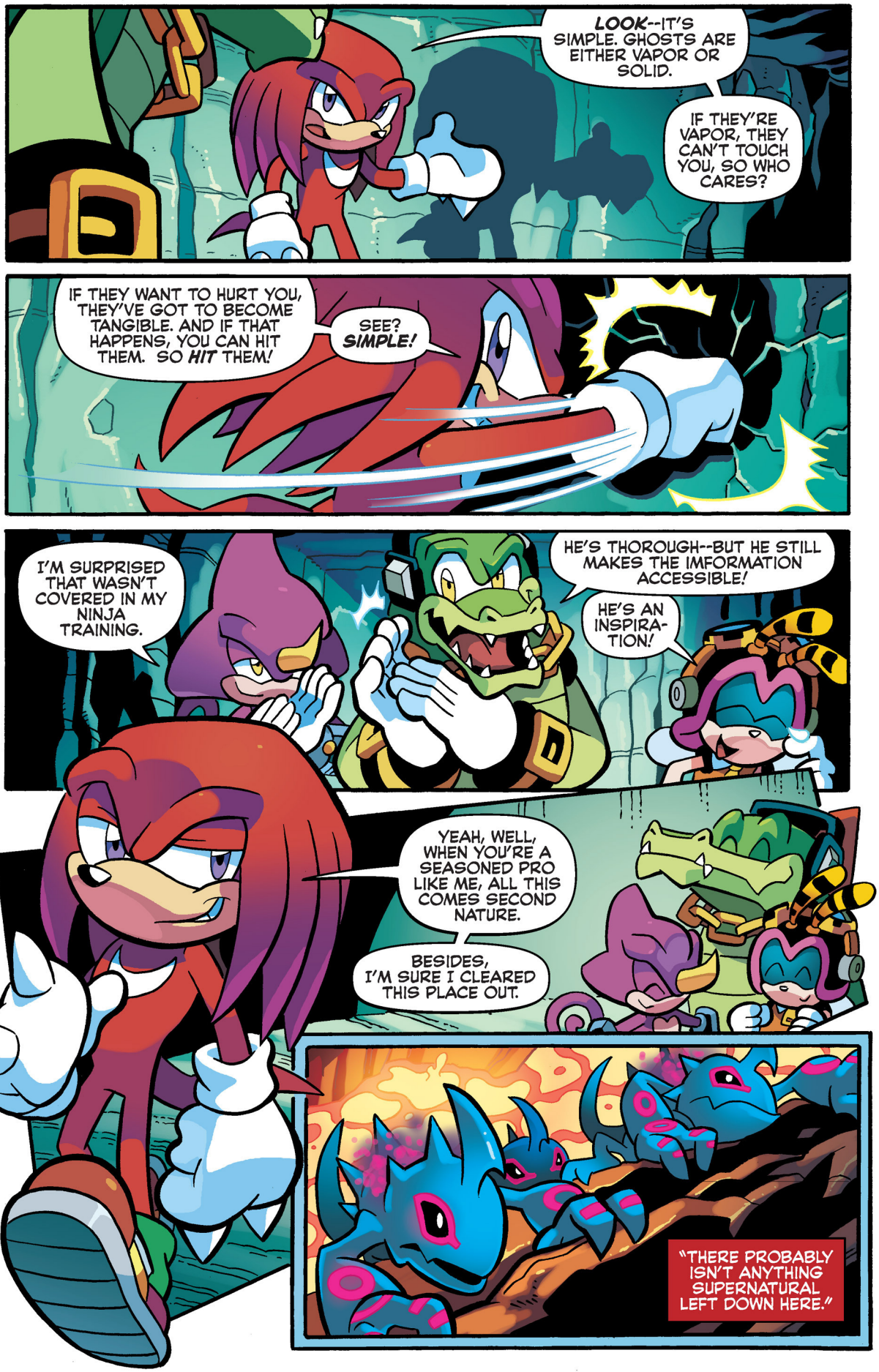
"...WE MUST RUN VERY QUICKLY!"
AQUATIC MINE ZONE.
TH-THIS PLACE IS E-EVEN CREEPIER THAN THE HILLS...
WHATTAYA TALKIN' ABOUT? IT'S DARK, IT'S DANK--REMINDS ME OF HOME!
OR THE OFFICE WHEN YOU HAVEN'T PAID THE POWER BILL...
CAN YOU STILL SENSE THE EMERALD?
YEAH--IT'S MUCH STRONGER DOWN HERE. AND IT'S STILL MOVING.
HOW DO YOU DO THAT, ANYWAY? SENSE THE EMERALDS AND STUFF.
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S JUST A SIXTH SENSE I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.
THEY SAY ALL THE BEST TREASURE HUNTERS CAN "FEEL" WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR THIS WAY.
SINCE WHEN DID YOU HUNT FOR TREASURE? YOU'RE ALWAYS WATCHING THE MASTER EMERALD?
"ALWAYS"? I CAN HAVE HOBBIES TOO, Y'KNOW.
WHY DO YOU KEEP HIM AROUND AGAIN?
WOULD YOU LEAVE HIM TO FEND FOR HIMSELF?
I WRITE HIM OFF AS A "CHARITABLE CAUSE" EVERY TAX SEASON.
OOOOh!

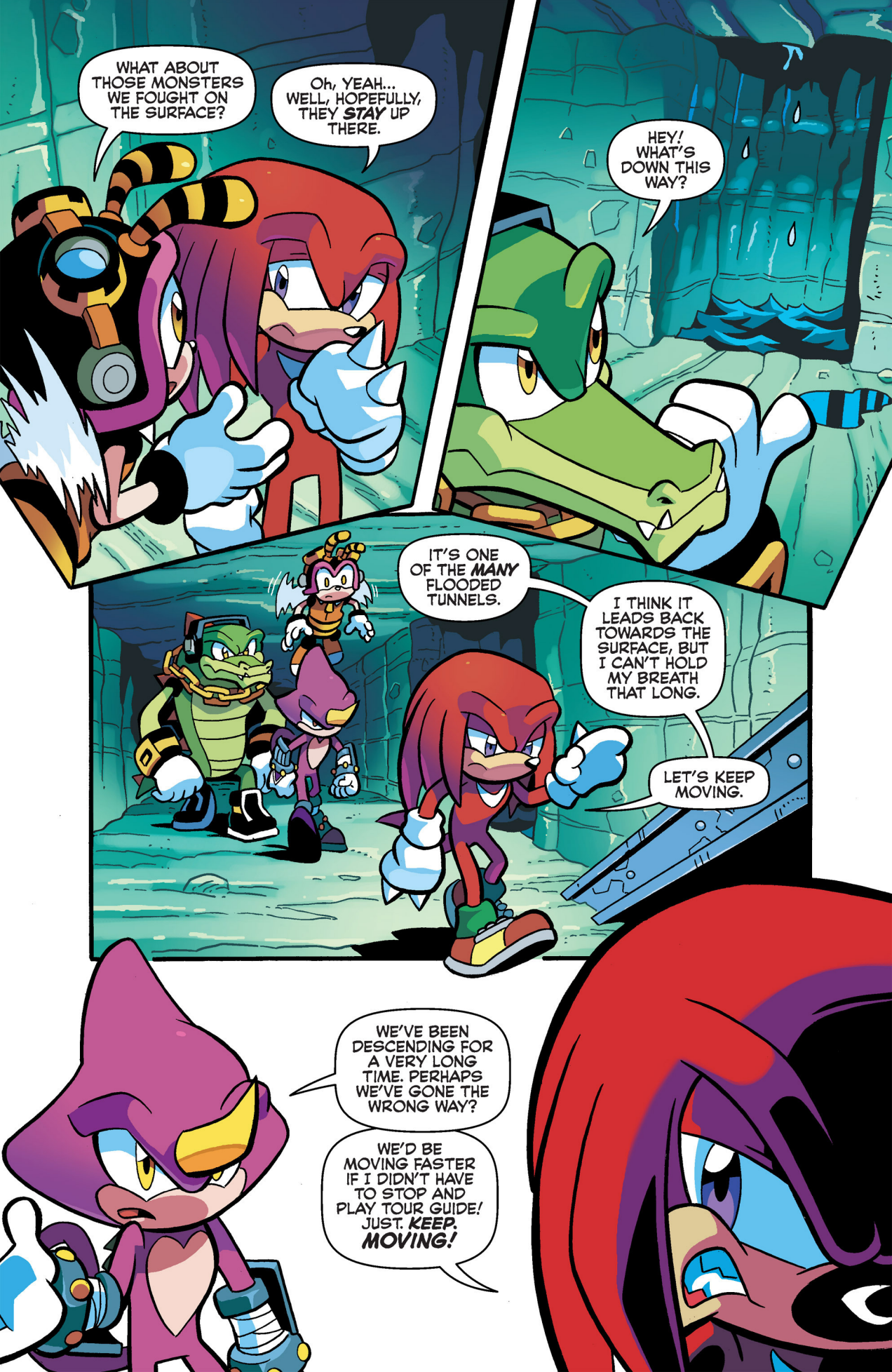

WHAT DOES THIS THING DO?
DON'T--!
--TOUCH THAT!
WHY?
THEY CHANGE THE WATER LEVELS AND SOMEHOW STILL WORK. THERE'S A BUNCH OF SWITCHES THROUGHOUT THE MINES.
Oh, WHY?
I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS THE MINERS NEEDED A WAY TO KEEP ALL THE WATER IN CHECK.
AND DRAINING THIS PLACE WASN'T AN OPTION.
Oh. WHYYY?
I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE--

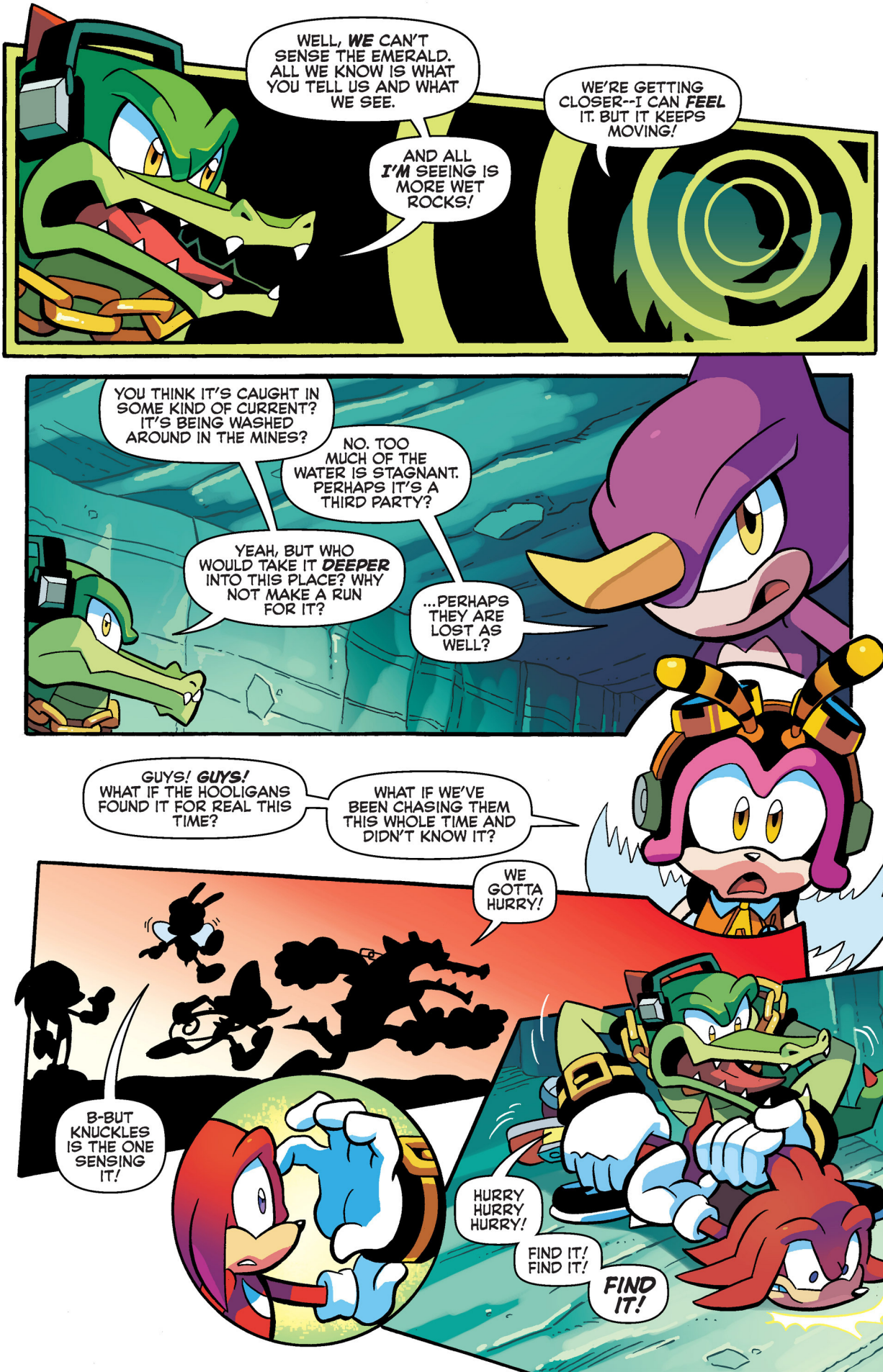

FUN GAME.
NOW LET'S PLAY "FIND THE EMERALD BEFORE THE OTHER GUYS DO."
Oh, WOW...
...WE'RE REALLY ON THE EDGE, AREN'T WE?
OUR POOR WORLD... BROKEN TO PIECES...*
*THE SHATTERED WORLD CRISIS BEGAN IN STH #256!
C'MON, GUYS. THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN A PAYCHECK. WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THE PLANET.
COME TO THINK OF IT...WHERE WERE YOU GUYS WHEN THE WORLD BROKE APART?
IT WAS SCARY!
WE WERE FAR FROM ANY FAULT LINE, BUT EVERYTHING SHOOK. NO ONE WAS UN-TOUCHED.
IT MAKES ME WONDER...


"...HOW THE HOOLIGANS CAN LIVE WITH THEMSELVES."
NO-NO-NO! WE SHOULD GO *LEFT* THERE!
IT'S A *TUNNEL*, BEAN! THERE *IS NO* LEFT OR RIGHT!
YOU LACK IMAGINATION! AND EXPLOSIVES!
ARGH! YOU'RE NOT HELPING!
WE NEED TO FIND THE EMERALD BEFORE THE CHAOTIX AND GET IT BACK TO EGGMAN!
≥sigh≤
Oh, NOW YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH WHO WE TAKE CONTRACTS FROM? ***NOW*** YOU'VE GOT SCRUPLES?
OR MAYBE YOU WANT TO LET THE WORLD SORT ITSELF OUT, LIKE IT ALWAYS DOES? IF YOU WANT OUT, SPEAK UP NOW.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
VROOOOM
VROOOOM


MEANWHILE...
SEE THAT? WHOEVER DUG OUT THIS PLACE SAW GHOSTS, TOO.
THINK THEIR GHOSTS HAUNT THIS PLACE NOW?
Huh...
EEP!
CUT IT OUT, VECTOR. WE DON'T NEED HIM JUMPING AT SHADOWS DOWN HERE, TOO.
NO, YOU MIGHT AS WELL KEEP AN EYE OUT. I RAN INTO GHOSTS THE LAST TIME I WAS DOWN HERE.
Oh, FOR THE LOVE OF...
LOOK! YOU MAY BE USED TO GHOSTS...
...BUT THE MYSTERIES WE DEAL WITH USUALLY INVOLVE LOST WALLETS AND PARANOID SPOUSES!


LOOK--IT'S SIMPLE. GHOSTS ARE EITHER VAPOR OR SOLID.
IF THEY'RE VAPOR, THEY CAN'T TOUCH YOU, SO WHO CARES?
IF THEY WANT TO HURT YOU, THEY'VE GOT TO BECOME TANGIBLE. AND IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU CAN HIT THEM. SO HIT THEM!
SEE? SIMPLE!
I'M SURPRISED THAT WASN'T COVERED IN MY NINJA TRAINING.
HE'S THOROUGH--BUT HE STILL MAKES THE IMFORMATION ACCESSIBLE!
HE'S AN INSPIRA-TION!
YEAH, WELL, WHEN YOU'RE A SEASONED PRO LIKE ME, ALL THIS COMES SECOND NATURE.
BESIDES, I'M SURE I CLEARED THIS PLACE OUT.
"THERE PROBABLY ISN'T ANYTHING SUPERNATURAL LEFT DOWN HERE."


WHAT ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS WE FOUGHT ON THE SURFACE?
Oh, YEAH... WELL, HOPEFULLY, THEY STAY UP THERE.
HEY! WHAT'S DOWN THIS WAY?
IT'S ONE OF THE MANY FLOODED TUNNELS.
I THINK IT LEADS BACK TOWARDS THE SURFACE, BUT I CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH THAT LONG.
LET'S KEEP MOVING.
WE'VE BEEN DESCENDING FOR A VERY LONG TIME. PERHAPS WE'VE GONE THE WRONG WAY?
WE'D BE MOVING FASTER IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO STOP AND PLAY TOUR GUIDE! JUST. KEEP. MOVING!


WELL, WE CAN'T SENSE THE EMERALD. ALL WE KNOW IS WHAT YOU TELL US AND WHAT WE SEE.
AND ALL I'M SEEING IS MORE WET ROCKS!
WE'RE GETTING CLOSER--I CAN FEEL IT. BUT IT KEEPS MOVING!
YOU THINK IT'S CAUGHT IN SOME KIND OF CURRENT? IT'S BEING WASHED AROUND IN THE MINES?
NO. TOO MUCH OF THE WATER IS STAGNANT. PERHAPS IT'S A THIRD PARTY?
YEAH, BUT WHO WOULD TAKE IT DEEPER INTO THIS PLACE? WHY NOT MAKE A RUN FOR IT?
...PERHAPS THEY ARE LOST AS WELL?
GUYS! GUYS! WHAT IF THE HOOLIGANS FOUND IT FOR REAL THIS TIME?
WHAT IF WE'VE BEEN CHASING THEM THIS WHOLE TIME AND DIDN'T KNOW IT?
WE GOTTA HURRY!
B-BUT KNUCKLES IS THE ONE SENSING IT!
HURRY HURRY HURRY!
FIND IT! FIND IT!
FIND IT!

ENOUGH!!
I HAD MY OWN MISSION BEFORE I GOT ROPED INTO THIS!
I DON'T NEED TO FIGHT YOUR RIVALS FOR YOU, OR BABYSIT YOU THROUGH GHOST STORIES!
I'M NOT DOING YOUR JOB FOR YOU ANYMORE!
WHOA! SORRY, I JUST--
NO! MORE!
FINE. JUST POINT US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
GRRR... THE EMERALD IS...
...HEADING RIGHT FOR US.
JUST AROUND THIS CORNER...

H-HULLO? IS S-SOMEONE THERE...?
IS THIS THE SPIRIT KNUCKLES WAS LOOKING FOR?! WHATEVER IT IS--WHAT IS IT DOING WITH THE CHAOS EMERALD?!
AND ARE THE HOOLIGANS AND MONSTERS WAITING IN THE SHADOWS TO POUNCE?!!
THINGS GET EVEN WILDER NEXT TIME!!
UNTIL THEN, DON'T MISS OUT ON SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST and the GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

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MY SONIC UNIVERSE™

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Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
I wanted to mention (but forgot the last time I wrote) just how brilliant Sonic Universe is. The main Sonic the Hedgehog series is, of course, excellent, but Universe is the absolute perfect complement to it. As I've been becoming more and more enamored with StH, a big part of my enjoyment is stemming from the cast. As though you all are psychic, and know how much fun it is to read about everyone from Knuckles to Silver, Universe is there to give EVERYONE the screen time they deserve. I really hope that Universe is here for the long haul, because there'd be a big, gaping hole without it.

Sonic has such a great cast of characters! The supporting cast needs some time to shine too! As long as we have the support of fans like you, Sonic Universe will thrive for a long time!

Before I leave... suggestions/requests! I think Silver and Tails are cool and would love to see more of them and other characters! And... well, that's about it... for now!

Robert M. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter and kind words, Robert! Wait and see what the future brings for Silver! As for our foxy, high-flying friend, Tails is actually a part of a group mission happening right now in Sonic the Hedgehog 260, check it out!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hi! This is my first time writing in, and I just want to say, you guys are AWESOME. I grew up with Sonic, so the Sonic comics are very special to me. Keep up the good work!

Thanks! I'm glad you decided to drop us a line!

Okay, I guess I'll have "the usual,"

You got it! ORDER UP!

I love the Chaotix, and my favorite member is Mighty. Can I be Mighty's #1 fan, or if that's already taken, than his #1A fan?

Sure! I deem thee Mighty's #1A fan!

Next, I'm wondering if we'll see Chaos again. He had a cool cameo in "Worlds Collide" with the whole "Chaos Devil" thing, but will we see actual Chaos in the future?

Eagle-eyed fans can spot him in the start of this story arc last issue! Where did he go?! You might want to check out what's happening in the main Sonic the Hedgehog comic book right now. You may be pleasantly surprised!

Thanks, and once again, you guys are amazing!

Hunter H. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Hunter! We hope you're digging The Great Chaos Caper and that you check out Waves of Change, happening right now in Sonic the Hedgehog 260-263!

See y'all next month as Knuckles and the Chaotix finally come face to face with the legendary spirit in part 3 of THE GREAT CHAOS CAPER!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

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PART TWO OF FOUR

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